

## Goal — Offer a first-class, comprehensive public K-12 education

### Measure: Reading/Writing Proficiency

**Target:**  
At least 120% of US average  
in reading proficiency

**Actual:** 110%

**US Rank (2003):** 16th (tie)

**Southeast Rank (2003):** 2nd

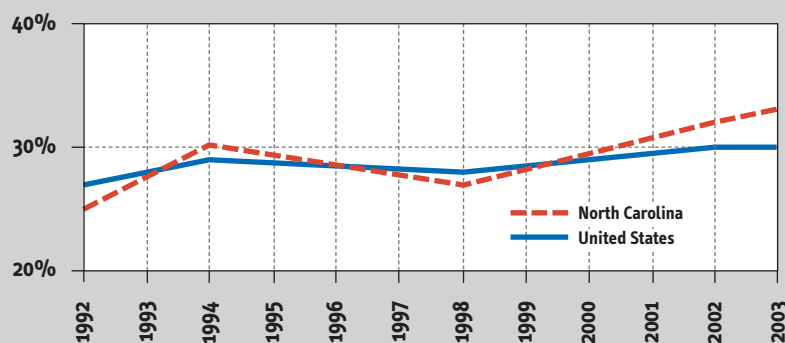
**Definition:** Percent of 4th graders rated proficient or better in reading per the National Assessment for Educational Progress (NAEP), where proficient represents a demonstrated academic mastery for specified grade level

**Source:** US Dept. of Education, National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), NAEP Reading Assessment

**Notes:** Since the differences among NAEP scores are small, future state rankings could change significantly (NCES cautions that NAEP reading score differences among many states are not statistically significant)

The reading proficiency rate of NC's 4th graders improved from 27% in 1998 to 33% in 2003. Moreover, since 1998, NC's 4th grade reading proficiency rate has risen above the national rate, giving NC the 16th best score in the nation and the 2nd best score in the region.

Percent of public school 4th graders proficient or better in reading



In 2003, according to NCES (the Nation's Report Card), NC had the 30th best average reading score for 8th graders in the US (where 11 state scores were not significantly different). In 2002, NC had the 6th best average writing score for 8th graders in the US (where 11 state scores were not significantly different). NC's English standards have won recognition from the Fordham Foundation for "being clear, specific and measurable, showing increasing difficulty over the grades and addressing almost all areas of the English language arts and reading satisfactorily."

### Measure: Math/Science Proficiency

**Target:** At least 120%  
of US average  
in math proficiency



**Actual:** 132%

**US Rank (2003):** 4th (tie)

**Southeast Rank (2003):** 1st

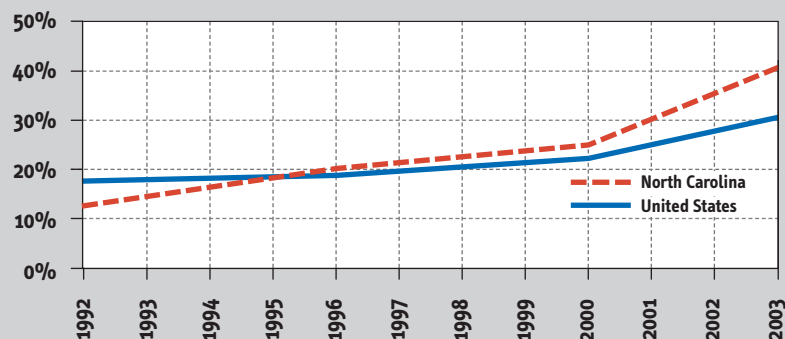
**Definition:** Percent of 4th graders rated proficient or better in math per the National Assessment for Educational Progress (NAEP), where proficient represents a demonstrated academic mastery for specified grade level

**Source:** US Dept. of Education, National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), NAEP Math Assessment

**Notes:** Since the differences among NAEP scores are small, future state rankings could change significantly (NCES cautions that NAEP math score differences among many states are not statistically significant)

The math proficiency rate of NC's 4th graders improved from 25% in 2000 to 41% in 2003. In addition, NC's 4th grade math proficiency rate is significantly higher than the national rate. In 2003, NC enjoyed the best math proficiency score for 4th graders in the region, and the 4th best in the nation.

Percent of public school 4th graders proficient or better in math



In 2003, according to NCES (the Nation's Report Card), NC tied for the 18th highest average math score for 8th graders in the US (where 20 state scores were not significantly different). NC's math standards have been cited by the Fordham Foundation as better than those of most states.